

Members and Member-Elects,

I wanted to share the information for Opening Day again with some very important updates. Convening of the 2023 Legislative Session will begin on January 9, 2023 at **9:30AM**. Please note that is 30 minutes earlier than previously sent out.

OPENING DAY PROCEDURES Opening day ceremonies begin at **9:30 A.M., Monday, January 9.**

Members will be administered the oath of office in the House Chamber at the seat you are temporarily assigned. You may watch a video of how the administration of the oath of office occurs at this link. <https://youtu.be/xjH9rzybdkA>

FLOOR POLICY FOR OPENING DAY

Your spouse or significant other and your minor children or minor grandchildren (if applicable) will have access to the floor. One adult child may have access with you on the floor in the event you do not have a spouse or significant other joining you. If you do not have any family members attending and would like to have a special guest, please come by the Speaker's office to obtain a floor pass for that guest. Several House photographers will be taking photos of members and guests. No outside photographers will be allowed on the House floor.

Any additional guests must take seats in the gallery. The gallery will open at 9:15 a.m. that morning. Seating will be available on a first come, first served basis.

After the swearing-in, all guests will be asked to quickly leave the floor in order to prepare for the business of the day. Your family and/or guests are welcome to view the remainder of the session in either Rooms 341 or 403 in the Capitol if they do not wish to view from the gallery.

As a reminder for the remainder of the session, per House Rule 7.8, *"Spouses and children may be admitted on the floor of the House, provided they shall not be seated at the desk of any member; provided, further, that no child under the age of 12 years shall be admitted on the floor except on the purpose of posing for photographs with a member, and provided, that after such activity the child shall immediately leave the floor."*

TEMPORARY SEATING CHART

Please see that attached temporary seating chart. The seating chart for the 2023-2024 biennium will be set at a later date.

PHOTOGRAPHER AVAILABILITY

House photographers will be available on the House Floor and in the Anteroom beginning at 8:00AM. You are encouraged to utilize this time to have photographs taken, as there will not be posed photographs in the House Chamber or the Anteroom after the swearing in has taken place and prior to adjournment.

Dates to Remember

- Sunday, January 8th – Prayer Convocation (2-4 PM) – South Wing State Capitol
- Sunday, January 8th - Wild Hog Supper – (5:30-7:30 PM) – Georgia Freight Depot (Private Ticketed Event)
- Monday, January 9th – Session Begins – (9:30 AM) – House Chamber

HOUSE RULES REMINDERS

- Dress code for the House floor is professional business attire (no jeans). Men should wear coat and ties and women should be dressed in professional business attire. Please remind your guests of this rule so they will be dressed appropriately if joining you on the floor.
- During the morning devotional, do not text on your phone or use your computer. Please be mindful that gallery guests are able to view your actions as well as the press. It is also disrespectful to our visiting pastor.
- **You are to vote your own voting machine, per House Rule. No guests, child or other member should vote.**

GENERAL REMINDERS

- The Capitol building opens at 7:00 a.m. and the gallery opens at 9:00 a.m. Guests need to be seated by 9:20 a.m. Remember seating is first come-first serve.
- Entry into the Capitol must be either on the first floor Mitchell Street Entrance or the second floor Washington Street Entrance for all guests. Members and Members-Elect are prohibited from using an access badge to provide entry to anyone.
- Returning members – please remember to bring your Religious Text (Bible, Quran, and Torah) or other text for you to place your hand on while taking the oath. Religious texts (Bible, Quran, and Torah) for new representatives have been ordered and will be placed on their desk in the Chamber.

- Parking for guests is at a premium, so please carpool if possible! Members and Member-Elects should use their parking pass to park in the South Deck.

HEALTH REMINDERS

Members, staff, and guests experiencing the symptoms linked with COVID or the flu are prohibited from being at the Capitol. Someone who experiences these symptoms is not allowed to report to work; anyone experiencing these symptoms while at the workplace is required to immediately leave the workplace. Because at home testing can take a few days to present a positive test, one's symptoms should be an indicator. All are encouraged to test when symptomatic.

If for any reason, a member will not be able to attend session on January 9th, please notify the Speaker's Office so that the instructions for having the oath administered can be provided.

PAGE PROGRAM

The Page Program will resume this session. Details can be found on the Georgia General Assembly website under the House of Representatives tab.

As always please contact the Speaker's Office if you have any questions or need clarification.